

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02549 171210Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 ACDA-12 STR-07 SMS-01 XMB-04
/105 W

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P R 171100Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 265
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 2549

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, TU
SUBJ: COMMERCIAL OFFICER ERRONEOUSLY QUOTED IN TURKISH PRESS

1. SUMMARY: ARTICLES IN AUGUST 17 MILLIYET AND TERCUMAN QUOTE
CONSULATE COMMERCIAL OFFICER SPECULATING DURING CALL ON
ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY PRESIDENT ON TALKS BETWEEN
THE GOT AND "GROUP OF EIGHT" BANKS COORDINATING DEBT
RESCHEDULING AND FATE OF NEXT IMF TRANCHE. MILLIYET ALSO
PURPORTS COMMOFF AS STATING EMBARGO IS LIFTED DE
FACTO AND COMMENTING ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS. IN FACT,
COMMOFF NEVER SPOKE TO MILLIYET REPORTER OR ANYONE ELSE
FROM PRESS. WE MUST, THEREFORE, ASSUME CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY
PRESIDENT ON WHOM OFFICER WAS MAKING A COURTESY CALL WAS
SOURCE OF ARTICLE (INDEED, IN TERCUMAN, HE WAS CLEARLY
IDENTIFIED AS SUCH). END SUMMARY

2. MILLIYET ARTICLE: UNDER HEADLINE: "US COMMERCIAL ATTACHE:
THE SECOND PORTION OF THE CITICORP (SIC) CREDIT WILL BECOME
EFFECTIVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS." PURPORTS OFFICER TO
HAVE SAID AFTER MEETING WITH ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY
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PRESIDENT IBRAHIM BODUR THAT THE CITICORP'S CREDIT'S SECOND
PORTION WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ARTICLE
ALSO QUOTES HIM AS STATING THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS DE FACTO LIFTED.
FINAL PARAGRAPH HAS OFFICER STATING THAT BODUR DESCRIBED
TURKISH ATTEMPTS TO EXPORT SURPLUS PRODUCTION TO USSR DESPITE
ITS BEING IN SEPARATE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC BLOC AND THAT
AMERICA SHOULD DO LIKEWISE.

TERCUMAN ARTICLE: QUOTES BODUR AS SAYING THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICER "HOPED" IMF WOULD PROCEED WITH SECOND TRANCHE OF STANDBY CREDIT AND THAT "GROUP OF EIGHT" AND CITICORP WERE CONTINUING THEIR WORK WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.

3. IN FACT, EXCEPT FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS THERE WAS NO PRESS PRESENT DURING COURTESY CALL ON CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY PRESIDENT AUGUST 16 AND NO REPORTER SPOKE TO OFFICER AFTER CALL WAS COMPLETED. ONE PERSON, IDENTIFIED BY BODUR ONLY AS "COLLEAGUE", DID SIT IN ON LAST THIRD OF MEETING, BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE. DURING THAT PORTION OF CALL, OFFICER DID INDEED COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT IMF CREDIT WAS ON SCHEDULE. OTHER SUBJECTS MENTIONED DURING MEETING (WHEN COMMERCIAL OFFICER ALONE WITH BODUR) WERE EMBARGO AND USSR/TURKISH TRADE RELATIONS BUT OFFICER HAD NO COMMENT ON BODUR'S DISCUSSION OF LATTER.

4. COMMENT: ABOUT ONLY TRUTH IN THE TWO ARTICLES WAS THAT THE CALL DID INDEED TAKE PLACE. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT BODUR PASSED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT TO REPORTERS AFTER IT WAS OVER WHO THEN JAZZED IT UP FOR NEWS VALUE. MILLIYET, BY THE WAY, SEEMS TO HAVE CONFUSED CITICORP WITH IMF; CITICORP WAS NOT MENTIONED BY EITHER BODUR OR COMMERCIAL OFFICER. HOUGHTON
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Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780855/aaaabtla.tel
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